(b) if so, the progress, so far, made therein; and

(c) whether any renewed efforts are being made in view of international interest on moon for establishing stations on the moon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Development of the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft and scientific instruments are progressing satisfactorily for a scheduled launch during 2008. Design reviews of all payloads have been completed. Spacecraft integration has commenced. Establishment .of deep space network is progressing as per scheduled.

(c) At present we do not have any specific plan for establishing a lunar observatory. However, Chandrayaan-1 will provide valuable inputs in establishing such stations at a later date, if required.

Launch of Italian satellite

†3941. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether by succeeding in clinching a global bid for satellite launch of Italy and launching Italian satellite 'Agile' through PSLV-C8 rocket into its orbit India has established its excellence in the field of commercial launching in global market;

(b) if so, whether India has secured place alongside US, Russia, China and France in the field of commercial launch of satellites and the likely opportunities in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The capacity on PSLV is being offered to international customs, after meeting our national needs.

(c) Agreements have been signed for launching three other foreign satellites.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.